

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 R

66624

DRAFTED BY:EUR/RPE:RCMEIMA

APPROVED BY:EUR/RPE:ACALBRECHT

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R 012257Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 041815

FOL PARIS 5170 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO EC BRUSSELS

FEB 28, 1974 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 5170

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, TECH, FR

SUBJECT: EC TARIFF ON AIRCRAFT COMPONENTS

REF: STATE 034572

1. EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED CONTENTS REFTEL WITH FONMIN AND DREE OFFICIALS AND LEFT AIDE MEMOIRE SUMMARIZING ARGUMENTS. IN BOTH CONVERSATIONS AND AIDE MEMOIRE, EMBASSY REQUESTED THAT GOF REFRAIN FROM SUPPORTING FURTHER REIMPOSITION OF TARIFFS ON AIRCRAFT MATERIEL. FOLLOWING COMMENTS WERE MADE BY DE PANNEFIEU, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT TO COLLIN, CHIEF OF MULTILATERAL TRADE SECTION OF DREE.

2. DE PANNEFIEU REPLIED BY READING FROM A JANUARY 10 MEMORANDUM ON SUBJECT WHICH HE SAID HE HAD PREPARED FOR FINANCE MINISTER. GIST OF MEMORANDUM IS THAT IN THIS CASE GOF IS INNOCENT OF ANY VIOLATION OF GOOD FAITH. THIS IS CASE, ACCORDING TO MEMORANDUM, BECAUSE IT WAS BRITISH AND NOT FRENCH WHO HAD TAKEN

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INITIATIVE ON THESE ITEMS. BRITISH, AS SOLE PURCHASERS OF TRISTAR

IN EC, DESIRED TERMINATION OF SUSPENSION TO FACILITATE PURCHASE OF BRITISH EQUIPMENT IN AIRCRAFT. IN ANY EVENT, MEMORANDUM CONTINUED, DECISION TO ESTABLISH ANNEX II WAS NOT A FRENCH BUT AN EC ACTION. MEMORANDUM ALSO STATED THAT GE-SNECMA COMMITMENT NEVER OCCURED TO GOF OFFICIALS WHEN ANNEX II ITEMS FIRST DISCUSSED. MEMORANDUM ALSO POINTED OUT THAT BASIC SUSPENSION LIST FOR 1974 REGISTERED AN INCREASE OF LINE ITEMS FROM 50 TO 68, SO LIST OF SUSPENDED ITEMS HAS IN EFFECT BEEN CONSIDERABLY EXPANDED.

3. DE PANNEFIEU SAID THAT WHEN GOF SIGNED GE-SNECMA UNDERSTANDING THEY CONSIDERED THAT "MATERIELS AERONAUTIQUES" INCLUDED ONLY AIRCRAFT AND ITEGRAL PARTS OF AIRCRAFT. THUS GOF INTERPRETATION CONSIDERS RADIO AND NAVIGATIONAL EQUIPMENT AND OTHER ANNEX II ITEMS AS "PIECES DETACHEES."

4. DE PANNEFIEU PROMISED TO STUDY EMBASSY COMMENTS AND GIVE US REPLY, PROBABLY WITHIN WEEK. STONE UNQUOTE CASEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TARIFF LAW, AIRCRAFT COMPONENTS, TARIFF AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE041815
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPE:RCMEIMA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740373/aaaacqes.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 034572
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Jul-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC TARIFF ON AIRCRAFT COMPONENTS
TAGS: ETRD, TECH, FR, EEC
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005